

Claims:

1. A method of alerting a customer's line comprising the step of:  
querying a database to determine whether to carry out a step of a developing  
called number ID signal;

5       based on said step of querying, developing a signal representative of called  
number ID to form a called number ID signal; and  
      sending said called number ID signal to a POT CPE.

2. The method of claim 1 where said called number ID signal is an FSK  
10   modulated signal.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of sending an alert signal to  
said POT CPE.

15       4. The method of claim 3 wherein said alert signal is commingled with said  
called number ID signal.

20       5. The method of claim 4 wherein said alert signal comprises one or more ringing  
signal bursts.

6. The method of claim 5 where said commingling places said called number ID  
signal ahead of a first ringing-signal burst of said one or more ringing signal bursts, or  
following said first ringing-signal burst.

25       7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sending to said POT CPE  
one or more special service messages that indicate

(a) whether a connection to said POT CPE is sought to be established to a called  
number that is listed in a directory that is accessible to everyone,

(b) whether a connection to said POT CPE is sought to be established to a called  
30   number that is unlisted in said directory,

(c) the calling number that seeks to establish a connection with said POT CPE,

(d) time of day, or

(e) type of call.

- 5       **8.** The method of claim 7 wherein said type of call is taken from a set that includes collect call, international calls, calls, fax calls, modem calls, and credit card calls.